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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
3 -----x

4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

5 v.

20 CR 160 (MKV)

6 LISA GIANNELLI,

7 Defendant.  
-----x

8 New York, N.Y.  
9 April 25, 2022  
10 4:00 p.m.

Before:

11 HON. MARY KAY VYSKOCIL,

12 District Judge

13 APPEARANCES

14 DAMIAN WILLIAMS  
15 United States Attorney for the  
Southern District of New York

16 SARAH MORTAZAVI  
BENJAMIN ANTHONY GIANFORTI  
17 Assistant United States Attorneys

18 FASULO BRAVERMAN & DIMAGGIO  
19 Attorneys for Defendant  
BY: LOUIS V. FASULO  
-AND-  
20 LAW OFFICES OF BOBBIE C. STERNHEIM  
BY: ALEX STEPHEN HUOT

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1 MS. MORTAZAVI: Good afternoon, your Honor. Sarah  
2 Mortazavi, for the government. I'm joined at counsel table by  
3 Benjamin Gianforti.

4 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

5 MR. GIANFORTI: Good afternoon.

6 THE COURT: And welcome to the team.

7 MR. GIANFORTI: Thank you very much.

8 THE COURT: All right.

9 MR. FASULO: Good afternoon, your Honor. It's Louis  
10 Fasulo, Fasulo Braverman & Di Maggio, along with Alex Huot,  
11 Lisa Giannelli, and Sean McCabe, our paralegal.

12 THE COURT: Good afternoon to everybody. You can all  
13 be seated.

14 MR. FASULO: Thank you, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: So we're here for the final pretrial  
16 conference in this matter, which is scheduled for trial to  
17 commence with jury selection on Wednesday morning. Let me just  
18 update you about a couple of things in terms of COVID protocols  
19 just to make sure everyone understands what the rules are these  
20 days.

21 Counsel and witnesses who are speaking may remove  
22 their masks. We don't have the HEPA filters and all anymore.  
23 Spacing restrictions are gone away. So we will be trying the  
24 case in this courtroom -- that's what I say -- picking the jury  
25 in this courtroom as well, back, in effect, to as things were

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1 before. The only remnants that remain is while you're all  
2 seated, everybody still needs to keep their masks on. Only the  
3 person speaking can remove their mask. So at the lectern and  
4 at the witness stand, we're trying to work on getting a  
5 Plexiglas put in just as really a belts-and-suspenders, but  
6 it's not happening in most courtrooms anyway.

7 The only other restriction that remains – it doesn't  
8 really impact us – is that we're still, through this quarter,  
9 working on the master trial calendar, but the hope is that  
10 starting in the third quarter of the year, we're back to judges  
11 scheduling their own trials as well, which is a welcome.

12 MR. FASULO: Great news.

13 THE COURT: Very welcome change.

14 So any questions from anyone about COVID protocols?

15 MS. MORTAZAVI: Not from the government.

16 MR. FASULO: Not from the defense.

17 THE COURT: All right. If things occur as we're  
18 talking through today, don't hesitate to ask me.

19 So the next question I have is: Do the parties have  
20 an estimate about how long the trial is going to take? Have  
21 you talked to each other about this?

22 MS. MORTAZAVI: We have talked in general terms, your  
23 Honor. I think with respect to the government's case, it  
24 should take about a week, and that's a week of full calendar  
25 days, not business days.

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1           Then I understand the defense may have their own  
2 case --

3           THE COURT: What does that mean, "full calendar days,  
4 not business days"?

5           MS. MORTAZAVI: As in it won't be seven business days,  
6 it will be seven calendar days.

7           THE COURT: Oh. I only have five business days, but,  
8 okay.

9           MS. MORTAZAVI: Fair enough, your Honor.

10          THE COURT: I understand.

11          MS. MORTAZAVI: I think we anticipate resting midweek  
12 the following week, the first week of May. And I understand  
13 the defense might have their own case that they want to present  
14 to the jury, and I defer to Mr. Fasulo on how long that may  
15 take.

16          THE COURT: Okay.

17          MR. FASULO: Judge, we anticipate a day, maybe a day  
18 and a half, max, for the defense case.

19          THE COURT: Okay, perfect. And then we'll have  
20 summations and all.

21          So it sounds like you're both anticipating, though,  
22 two weeks?

23          MR. FASULO: For the jury purposes, you mean, or your  
24 own calendaring purpose?

25          THE COURT: Kind of for both. I don't know how long a

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1 jury will be out.

2 MR. FASULO: I'm just thinking in terms of the  
3 evidentiary part of the case, Judge, it's my anticipation at  
4 this point the trial is going to go very quickly, based on the  
5 way the government is putting this case together different than  
6 when we sat here originally and, also, in terms of our way that  
7 we are going to interpose our questioning, et cetera. So I  
8 would say that that's an outside time frame, the two weeks. I  
9 would say that we could be done before that, but that's my  
10 answer.

11 THE COURT: For purposes of talking to the jurors,  
12 then, it's my plan to tell them that we anticipate the trial  
13 will be about two weeks?

14 MR. FASULO: Yes, absolutely.

15 MS. MORTAZAVI: That's right.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 Now, the other thing I wanted to seek your input on is  
18 the trial day.

19 Last time, and typically, I just do a normal trial  
20 day, from 9:30 or 10 until about 4:30. I do have a number of  
21 other things. I know that next Thursday, I have to deal with  
22 another criminal matter at 8:30 in the morning that will take  
23 about an hour. So my suggestion would be that we start with  
24 the jury at 10:00 each day, and that, if there are things we  
25 need to talk about at the end of the day before, you let me

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1 know that, and we'll talk each day about what time I'll see you  
2 all the following morning, but that we'll tell the jurors  
3 10:00 o'clock start time every day.

4 I do plan to arrange for morning refreshments for the  
5 jurors basically to encourage them to be here on time so that  
6 they're ready to be in their seats and start with testimony at  
7 10:00 o'clock, so that we can get this wrapped up in two weeks.

8 It may be that on a given day or on a given Friday, I  
9 might have to adjourn a bit early to deal with other things,  
10 but we'll just have to deal with that as it comes up.

11 MR. FASULO: With that issue, I'm glad you brought  
12 that up. On this Friday, I have to be out in Long Island for a  
13 wedding in the late afternoon or evening.

14 THE COURT: On the 29th?

15 MR. FASULO: Yes. Obviously, the trial comes first.  
16 I would love to be able to get out of here at a reasonable  
17 hour.

18 THE COURT: What does that mean?

19 MR. FASULO: Whatever the Court can do. I mean, the  
20 wedding starts at 6:00, so I'm going to get there late anyway,  
21 but whatever time I can get out of here, the better for me, but  
22 I, obviously, want to respect the jurors' times and whenever I  
23 get there, I get there. But, obviously, it's Friday, and I'm  
24 driving all the way out to North Fork. So if the Court has  
25 other things they wanted to accomplish, I would have loved if

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1 that can happen. But, obviously, I respect the jurors' times  
2 and the Court's time, so whatever happens, happens.

3 THE COURT: At a minimum, why don't we plan Friday a  
4 3:00 o'clock adjournment --

5 MR. FASULO: That would be wonderful, Judge.

6 THE COURT: -- because I actually do have something as  
7 well. So this Friday.

8 MR. FASULO: I appreciate that.

9 THE COURT: So this Friday, we'll adjourn at 3:00.

10 MR. FASULO: That's perfect.

11 THE COURT: And then, for the most part, every other  
12 day, we'll go from 10:00 until 4:30 or 5:00, and if we have to  
13 press on a little later on a given day in order to get us to  
14 that two weeks, that will be what we will do.

15 Also, on May 6th, the following Friday, I have another  
16 criminal matter on at 4:00 o'clock that I have to hear.

17 Now, also, the next thing, some of this logistical  
18 stuff. The Court is no longer providing lunch for the jurors.  
19 I think they are during jury selection, if I remember -- no,  
20 not even that? Only deliberations.

21 So that creates an issue, frankly, in terms of how  
22 long we have to break for lunch, because of people to leave, go  
23 outside, get something to eat and come back. I'm going to ask  
24 the jurors if they can please try to bring lunch or go to the  
25 cafeteria and get lunch, so I would really like to keep the

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1 lunch break to no more than an hour, and if we can keep it  
2 less, I'd rather have it be 45 minutes or so. But I'm just  
3 telling you that now, and we'll see once we have a jury in  
4 place. Some jurors are more cooperative than others, as you  
5 know. But one hour, max, for lunch and, hopefully, 45 minutes.

6 We already talked about we're going to do jury  
7 selection and the trial here in this courtroom.

8 So the next thing I want to talk you about is jury  
9 selection. Have you talked to each other about the number of  
10 alternates?

11 MR. FASULO: Yes, your Honor. One of the things we  
12 were thinking, because it's a short trial, we believe two  
13 alternates is probably going to be sufficient. So we would ask  
14 the Court to consider two alternates. We both have spoken  
15 about it, and both have come to that agreement.

16 THE COURT: That's acceptable, Ms. Mortazavi?

17 MS. MORTAZAVI: That's right, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: That was my inclination as well. If you  
19 recall, for the last trial, we had four alternates – we didn't  
20 need any of them – and that trial was a bit longer than what  
21 you're telling me you anticipate this one will be. So let's  
22 plan on two alternates, which means, then, that the government  
23 gets seven challenges and the defense gets eleven, correct?

24 MR. FASULO: That's correct, your Honor.

25 MS. MORTAZAVI: Correct, your Honor.

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1                   THE COURT: I have your proposed voir dire. I also  
2 have the other materials you submitted to me, the requests to  
3 charge and all.

4                   On those documents, I just have to tell you, going  
5 afford, if you're going to give me things that are color-coded,  
6 we don't have a color printer at the courthouse, so I need you  
7 to print them for me. I printed the colored pages at my own  
8 printer, and then I don't have the notes.

9                   So you're going to correct me, please, if I'm wrong,  
10 but my understanding is that there are disputes on the  
11 following questions: Question 19, Question 1(g) about the  
12 juror background. I think that's it. I have a couple of  
13 questions about a few other things.

14                  MS. MORTAZAVI: That's all I have, your Honor.

15                  THE COURT: Mr. Fasulo, is that correct?

16                  MR. FASULO: That's it, Judge.

17                  THE COURT: So on Question 19, "Have you followed any  
18 criminal trials in the newspapers, magazines, on the internet,  
19 or on TV," and, Mr. Fasulo, you want to add: Do you have any  
20 opinions or beliefs as a result of watching these trials which  
21 would make it difficult for you to evaluate the evidence in  
22 this case?

23                  And then you go on to say: As a result of your  
24 exposure to the media described in 24, is there any reason why  
25 you cannot be fair and impartial? I don't know what this

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1 means, first of all.

2 MS. MORTAZAVI: Your Honor, if I may, the first  
3 statement was actually the version proposed by the government.  
4 And Mr. Fasulo's second statement, which is the last one, is  
5 the one that he proposed. I think the numbering just was not  
6 consistent on this one. I think it was supposed to refer to  
7 18 -- I'm sorry, to 19, which is --

8 THE COURT: Wait a minute. You're proposing just the  
9 first sentence, have you followed any criminal trials, or the  
10 next sentence, also, do you have any opinions or beliefs?

11 MS. MORTAZAVI: The next sentence, also. So the first  
12 two sentences in 19, the third sentence is Mr. Fasulo's  
13 proposal.

14 THE COURT: Okay. So only the third sentence, as a  
15 result of your exposure, is your addition, Mr. Fasulo?

16 MR. FASULO: Yes, Judge.

17 Can I just make a correction on that as well?

18 THE COURT: Yes.

19 MR. FASULO: After reading it again, I'm fine with 19.

20 THE COURT: Okay. I was going to say, it is a bit  
21 redundant.

22 MR. FASULO: I'm fine. I read it over again, and we  
23 were going back and forth, and the way it resolved in 24 --  
24 it's fine. So I'm happy with 19.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

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1                   So that leaves only 1(g), where you ask, Mr. Fasulo,  
2 that we add -- you want to add whether these people are  
3 salaried employees or work on commissions or both and whether  
4 the commission is based on a percentage of sale or billing  
5 collection, right?

6                   MR. FASULO: The main part of that question is  
7 important, it's whether they are a salaried employee or  
8 commissioned.

9                   THE COURT: Commissioned, yes.

10                  MR. FASULO: The second part, I'm okay with the Court  
11 just asking the beginning question, which is: Are you a  
12 salaried employee, or do you work on commissions?

13                  THE COURT: So, in other words, I should strike "and  
14 whether the commission is based on a percentage of sale or bill  
15 collection"?

16                  MR. FASULO: Yes.

17                  THE COURT: So that's that.

18                  So, Ms. Mortazavi, your position on adding "and  
19 whether they are salaried employees or work on commission or  
20 both"?

21                  MS. MORTAZAVI: That's fine, your Honor. Now that  
22 we've stricken the remaining language, I think it's appropriate  
23 and acceptable and not overly invasive.

24                  THE COURT: Okay. So it sounds like we have  
25 agreement, then, on the voir dire that you've submitted, but

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1 now I have a couple of questions that I'd like to speak to you  
2 all about.

3 Both of you sat through the last voir dire that we did  
4 because the mistrial with respect to Ms. Giannelli came after  
5 we had picked the jury. I have to tell you that the questions  
6 about people owning pets and going to the vet, as I was going  
7 through it, I thought to myself, this is just getting silly  
8 because I'm hearing from every person about owning a dog or a  
9 cat or a fish. Ms. Giannelli, unlike Dr. Fishman, is not a  
10 vet, correct?

11 MR. FASULO: That is correct, Judge.

12 THE COURT: So why do we need these questions about,  
13 have you ever gone to a vet?

14 MS. MORTAZAVI: So, your Honor, that's going to be a  
15 central feature of trial, which is Ms. Giannelli's interactions  
16 with Seth Fishman, and the veterinarian client-patient  
17 relationship, all the testimony that came in through our expert  
18 witness at the last trial will be presented at this trial. So  
19 I do think there is some relevance to this with respect to the  
20 evidence that we're going to hear. But I agree with your Honor  
21 that there were lengthy questions about the jurors' pets. The  
22 government has no objection to striking Number 21 and 22 --

23 THE COURT: Can't we just ask somebody, maybe, about  
24 equine or large animal?

25 MS. MORTAZAVI: And Number 23, I think, covers that,

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1 your Honor. So in light of that, the government --

2 MR. FASULO: 23?

3 MS. MORTAZAVI: Have you ever owned a horse as a pet,  
4 owned a horse for racing, or have you ever been a member of an  
5 equestrian club, I think those questions -- given that those  
6 questions will be posed, 21 and 22, the government has no  
7 objection to removing.

8 THE COURT: All right. So the proposal, Mr. Fasulo,  
9 is that we get rid of Number 21, which is, "Do you currently  
10 have, or have you ever owned, any domestic pets, such as a cat  
11 or a dog," and that we get rid of "Do you have any experience  
12 attending a veterinarian's office with your or somebody else's  
13 pet?"

14 MR. FASULO: So Number 22, Judge, I agree that we can  
15 get rid of 22 for sure.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MR. FASULO: I would still request 21 -- people have  
18 strong feelings about animals, and in terms of the jury taking  
19 this case, this is a serious case, we're facing serious  
20 repercussions in this case, so I think it's important that they  
21 understand that pets -- in this world and in terms of  
22 regulations, that it's important, and I don't want a juror to  
23 be dismissive of it, and it just gives me a light into whether  
24 or not they would be more receptive to sit here and take this  
25 case in the seriousness that it is by the fact that they have a

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1 relationship with animals and --

2 THE COURT: But this case is not about pets. It's  
3 about animals that were used for racing purposes, which we  
4 cover in Number 23.

5 MR. FASULO: One second? Let me just talk with my  
6 colleague.

7 (Counsel confer)

8 MR. FASULO: Seeing if we don't get rid of 23, and we  
9 keep 23, I'm fine with getting rid of the question, do you own  
10 a pet.

11 THE COURT: All right. So number -- domestic pet,  
12 we're going to get rid of?

13 MR. FASULO: Right.

14 THE COURT: 21 and 22 are out, then.

15 MR. FASULO: I'm fine with that, Judge.

16 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

17 Then some of the following questions, to me, about the  
18 interaction with law enforcement, there seemed to be an awful  
19 lot of questions, Number 17, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 46,  
20 and then there's a whole separate line that asks whether  
21 there's any bias against law enforcement. So do we really need  
22 all of these questions? Have you ever been questioned? Have  
23 you ever been charged? Have you ever been the subject of an  
24 investigation? Can't some of these be consolidated?

25 MS. MORTAZAVI: I'm sure we could, your Honor. We can

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1 take a look at the questions that you've highlighted and  
2 propose one or two global questions.

3 THE COURT: All right. So 34, 36, and 46, it seems to  
4 me, you can consolidate.

5 And then I've given you the other numbers, 17, 28, 29,  
6 31, 32 -- like 31 and 32 might be able to go together and 33.  
7 So I'm going to leave that to you and Mr. Fasulo to discuss and  
8 come back to me with a proposal for how to --

9 MS. MORTAZAVI: Certainly, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: -- combine some of these.

11 Now, Question No. 6 is about the COVID protocols. I  
12 guess we just need to double-check with the juror office that,  
13 in fact, this is still accurate, that these are still the  
14 questions that are being asked to people in their questionnaire  
15 before they came to the courthouse, and that these are all  
16 questions about COVID, and then we say are any of your answers  
17 different now than when you filled out the questionnaire? But  
18 I'm honestly not sure. So we'll try to find out about that,  
19 and if need be, we'll have to tailor that one, too.

20 If we determine that it's inaccurate, and it needs to  
21 be changed, we'll communicate with you by email tomorrow to let  
22 you know, because I'd like to have a final printed version,  
23 just like we did last time, that we give to the prospective  
24 jurors just to try to move things along.

25 Question No. 40, Mr. Fasulo, we just ask if the

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1 prospective jurors' know you. Is there anyone else from your  
2 team that we ought to be including?

3 MR. FASULO: Yes, Judge. Because -- Alex Huot, from  
4 my team, and Sean McCabe.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 Now, questions 19 and 41 are about what the jurors  
7 have read or may have read about the case. I don't know how  
8 specific we want to be here, but, as you all know, that  
9 Washington Post article came out during Dr. Fishman's trial. I  
10 don't really want to specifically reference an article. All  
11 I'll do then is invite people to go look for it. So if you  
12 just please look at 19 and 41 --

13 MR. FASULO: I do think, Judge, we need to cover that  
14 area, seeing that there is going to be coverage here. So if I  
15 can work with the U.S. Attorney on this, and we can get it  
16 resolved.

17 THE COURT: Yes. Because 41 asks about the  
18 prosecutors, the lawyers, law enforcement, and the defendant.  
19 Question 19, again, just asks about the prosecutors, lawyers --  
20 so there's nothing asking have you read about this case, right,  
21 or about alleged doping in the horseracing industry.

22 MR. FASULO: We can get that to you today, Judge.  
23 I'll go over that.

24 THE COURT: All right. Then the only other question I  
25 have is on the individual question 1(d). Why do we need to

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1 know if people own or rent their homes? It just seems we're  
2 getting a little bit personal here. 1(d), that is, on the  
3 individual questions.

4 MS. MORTAZAVI: So I think, your Honor, that gives  
5 some level of insight into the defendants. Similar to asking  
6 them what periodicals or newspapers they read and what they do  
7 for their occupation, buying a home is a significant decision,  
8 and it indicates something about the relative place in their  
9 lives that these particular jurors are and their ability to  
10 make a serious decision. So we would advocate to keep that in  
11 just to give both sides an indication as to that particular  
12 juror's comfort with making large decisions.

13 THE COURT: This is on consent?

14 MR. FASULO: Judge, I have no strong feelings on this.

15 THE COURT: Let's just leave it.

16 Is there anything else that you've noticed on voir  
17 dire?

18 MS. MORTAZAVI: Nothing for the government.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 So when can you get me, after you talk to each other  
21 about these various points that I have raised --

22 MR. FASULO: I think we can talk after this hearing  
23 right now and, hopefully, get something to you --

24 THE COURT: By noon tomorrow?

25 MR. FASULO: For sure.

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1 MS. MORTAZAVI: Yes.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 Let me just go through a couple of other things. I  
4 assume there are no new in limine motions, correct?

5 MS. MORTAZAVI: That's correct, your Honor.

6 There will be potential issues, nothing that's ripe to  
7 bring to the Court's attention, but Mr. Fasulo and I have  
8 agreed that, as the trial progresses, we're going to consult on  
9 issues, particularly issues relating to cross-examination of  
10 potential witnesses, and, hopefully, try to reach an agreement.  
11 If not, we will bring them to the Court's attention then.

12 THE COURT: No new in limines from the defense?

13 MR. FASULO: We've been currently working on one  
14 stipulation the government had submitted regarding licensing  
15 issues in terms of the vet and their authority to sell in other  
16 states. We're trying to work out that stipulation in some way.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MR. FASULO: We believe, after our conversation, that  
19 we're going to have a resolution, so we haven't brought that to  
20 the Court's attention and, hopefully, to resolve it. It's not  
21 an early issue in the case, so we'll have time if we do need to  
22 argue that or submit papers on that.

23 THE COURT: All right, good.

24 So in terms of jury selection, I didn't -- I'm sorry,  
25 did you have something else on motions?

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1 MS. MORTAZAVI: I did have something that I wanted to  
2 bring to the Court's attention. It's not the subject of an  
3 in limine motion because the parties are in agreement, and, in  
4 fact, Mr. Fasulo just executed a stipulation to this effect,  
5 but because it's slightly unusual, I do want to make sure the  
6 Court is aware.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 MS. MORTAZAVI: If you recall, one of our witnesses  
9 testified remotely previously --

10 THE COURT: That's one of my questions.

11 MS. MORTAZAVI: Oh, all right. We were on the same  
12 page.

13 That witness still, for various reasons, is  
14 unavailable to testify in person. In light of her prior  
15 testimony, the parties have agreed and stipulated to having the  
16 transcript of her prior testimony admitted at this trial as an  
17 exhibit. The government intends to call a witness to read back  
18 that transcript.

19 THE COURT: So, in other words, put someone on the  
20 stand as though they were that person?

21 MS. MORTAZAVI: Exactly, but make clear they're  
22 reading from the transcript.

23 THE COURT: Yes.

24 MS. MORTAZAVI: And we just want to raise that with  
25 the Court so that the Court is aware we will not be having

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1 remote testimony. We're, instead, going to go through this  
2 process, which, hopefully, will be less cumbersome.

3 THE COURT: All right. Remind me --

4 MR. FASULO: We have edited -- I'm sorry, Judge.

5 THE COURT: Just remind me who that person is?

6 MR. FASULO: Courtney Adams.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Right. Thank you.

8 MR. FASULO: Judge, we also have edited out the  
9 cross-examination of Mr. Sercarz and just going with my  
10 cross-examination of the witness, and we have consented to  
11 that. From the defendant's point of view, it covers what we  
12 believe was relevant in this case --

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 MR. FASULO: -- as it relates to Ms. Giannelli.

15 We have also examined the -- just for the record,  
16 we've examined all the alternatives to deal with this witness,  
17 and because of the nature of her likely being unavailable to  
18 come to court and the other alternatives that are available, we  
19 both feel, the government and ourselves, that this will best  
20 serve the interests of justice and be the fairest and subject  
21 to full cross-examination on her testimony, and we are willing  
22 to submit it, per stipulation, in this way.

23 THE COURT: All right. Very good. Look, I appreciate  
24 that both of you are working with each other cooperatively on  
25 these things as well. So thank you.

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1           I just was going to back up and say, with respect to  
2 jury selection, other than the fact that we'll be here, and we  
3 will be able to put people in the box, the first 14 people,  
4 everything else will be the same.

5           I was just counting. I saw you look over --

6           MR. FASULO: Me, too.

7           THE COURT: So we'll put the first 14 people -- they  
8 will be sent up, Ms. Dempsey will pull the numbers from the  
9 wheel, in the old-fashioned way, people will take the seats,  
10 the first 14 people, and then I'll examine them just like we  
11 did last time, where I had to do it one at a time, and just ask  
12 people to raise their hand if they have a yes. To the extent  
13 we need to do sidebars, we'll do that. I'm not going to excuse  
14 anybody after individual questions, I'll put them back in the  
15 box, we'll finish going through, and then, at the end, we'll  
16 excuse whoever needs to be excused and refill those seats and  
17 just ask the new people, do you have yesses to any of the  
18 questions.

19           MR. FASULO: You read my mind. I was going to suggest  
20 the same thing, that we don't excuse anybody immediately, no  
21 matter what the reason, we put them back in the box, and then  
22 let them go, because I saw the domino effect last time that  
23 once it started, there was nothing we could do.

24           THE COURT: It's one of the problems with having to do  
25 it in the COVID era.

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1 MR. FASULO: I'm not criticizing.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Your first witness?

3 MS. MORTAZAVI: That would be Kaitlyn Bush. She's an  
4 FBI agent who conducted a search of the defendant's premises.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 And then I assume that you and Mr. Fasulo have talked  
7 about when you're going to notify him of the order of your  
8 witnesses?

9 MS. MORTAZAVI: Yes. Generally, what we did at the  
10 last trial, which we intend to carry over here, is the day  
11 before or the night before, we will let him know these are the  
12 witnesses we expect to call.

13 MR. FASULO: Yes. And for the record, Judge, the  
14 government's been very cooperative in terms of giving us an  
15 idea of where they think and who they think they're going to  
16 call in what order. We respect the idea that this is still  
17 strange times, and getting witnesses in the order that they  
18 need to get them may be different. We are ready. I have to  
19 tell you, it is a different case -- just for the record, so I  
20 was assigned on this case. It is a different case than we  
21 originally had. We've gotten a ton of different 3500 material,  
22 additional 3500 material. We are ready, but we are ready to  
23 make the move. We have all our binders ready. So it shouldn't  
24 prevent us from moving forward at a rapid pace unless there's  
25 some sort of surprise witness that we didn't know about, but I

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1 don't anticipate that.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 Are there any issues with respect to technology that  
4 we should talk about?

5 MR. FASULO: Not from the defense.

6 MS. MORTAZAVI: Not from the government. I'll note  
7 that our paralegal is going to be meeting with Ms. Dempsey to  
8 do a test of the technology tomorrow morning.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MR. FASULO: If I can ask that Sean also attend that  
11 meeting, just in case there's a -- is that okay with the  
12 government?

13 MS. MORTAZAVI: Of course.

14 THE DEPUTY CLERK: I'm meeting with Ms. Young at  
15 10:00 a.m.

16 MR. McCABE: Great.

17 THE COURT: Have you all talked about the verdict  
18 form?

19 MS. MORTAZAVI: We submitted a proposed verdict form.  
20 I would defer to Mr. Fasulo if he has any amendments to it. I  
21 expect that that may change over the course of trial, but I  
22 defer to him.

23 THE COURT: Was that your proposal, though, or was  
24 that a joint proposal that you gave me?

25 MS. MORTAZAVI: It was a proposal that we had sent to

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1 Mr. Fasulo for his review. We did not receive comments on it.  
2 And we submitted it to the Court as is, absent any objection or  
3 comment.

4 THE COURT: I see. Okay.

5 So the verdict form, Mr. Fasulo?

6 MR. FASULO: So in terms of where we're at right now,  
7 we have no objection to the verdict form. However, we -- with  
8 the idea that our anticipation is Ms. Giannelli is going to  
9 testify in this case, and there may be an additional request  
10 that we have on the verdict form in terms of the way the case  
11 may play out in terms of charges, et cetera, and we will  
12 address that at the time, but, at this point, it's premature  
13 for me to kind of give you that until I see where the evidence  
14 is from the defense.

15 THE COURT: Fair enough.

16 Did you say your expectation is that Ms. Giannelli is  
17 going to testify?

18 MR. FASULO: Yes. There's no -- I am a hundred  
19 percent certain, other than a bomb hitting here, that  
20 Ms. Giannelli is going to testify in this case.

21 THE COURT: All right. Well, hopefully, she's going  
22 to be testifying.

23 MR. FASULO: I never --

24 THE COURT: For the reason that I hope there's no  
25 bomb. I'm not in any way pressuring you or suggesting that you

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1 need to testify. You understand that, right?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 MR. FASULO: Judge, I've never made that commitment,  
5 but we know that that's going to happen in this case.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 The jury instructions: Is what you gave me, absent  
8 the pages with the comments in red, on consent of both sides?

9 MR. FASULO: Yes, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 Again, I don't think there's a whole lot of disputes.  
12 As I saw it on -- I don't know if it's page 10 or charge 10,  
13 there's the language about good faith; on page 41, there is a  
14 comment about the prior trial; and on number 27, the defense  
15 proposes to add what's set forth on, I think it's, pages 50 to  
16 53. Is that the universe of disputes?

17 MS. MORTAZAVI: That's correct, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 So I'm not going to go through them today. Part of  
20 why I'm not is, I still believe these instructions are a bit  
21 repetitive in places and a bit longer than they need to be. So  
22 I intend, over the next day or two, to go through them, to give  
23 you a blackline of what I would propose to consolidate or  
24 strike, because I think it's repetitive, and give you an  
25 opportunity to be heard then. And then we'll go through,

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1 before the actual charge, those three areas on which you  
2 currently have disagreements.

3 MR. FASULO: Judge, we heard that instruction from the  
4 Court before, and I will tell you that we worked together on  
5 trying to do that. So we welcome the Court's incite into that,  
6 and we will review it at that time again, but we have worked on  
7 it --

8 THE COURT: No, they're better than they were, but  
9 they're still a bit repetitive.

10 Look, I try to look at this from the standpoint, too,  
11 of the jurors. They're sitting here and trying to absorb two  
12 hours or two and a half hours of my instructing them on the  
13 law. To the extent we can make things tighter and easier to  
14 understand for jurors, I just think that serves everybody's  
15 interests. So I will give you my proposed revisions, and you  
16 will have an opportunity to weigh in on them. Worst case, we  
17 go back to where we are now, and I will rule on the three areas  
18 of disagreement, because I also don't want to create lots of  
19 issues. So if my proposed edits raise problems, we'll take it  
20 from there. Okay?

21 And we'll do the charging conference as we're a little  
22 bit more into the trial itself, because I suspect, as I think  
23 you were alluding to, Mr. Fasulo, you may have additional  
24 comments or requests based on how the evidence comes in.

25 MR. FASULO: Yes, your Honor, but not -- we understand

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1 the context of the jury charge, and we've reviewed it. So  
2 based on your edits, it's not going to be a major change, but  
3 there may be some issues.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 So, Ms. Dempsey, what time are the jurors available to  
6 us on Wednesday? Do we know?

7 THE DEPUTY CLERK: I don't know yet.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Why don't we say we'll resume -- is  
9 there anything else that either of you have that we should talk  
10 about today?

11 MS. MORTAZAVI: Just a request, your Honor.

12 Mr. Fasulo had previewed, as he did at the last trial, that  
13 Ms. Giannelli is almost certainly going to testify, though  
14 there are no guarantees, the government understands that.

15 THE COURT: Right, and no commitment.

16 MS. MORTAZAVI: And no commitment whatsoever.

17 We have asked Mr. Fasulo to preview for us any defense  
18 witnesses that he intends to call. The last time we heard from  
19 him, he suggested that he was disinclined to call any other  
20 witnesses, but we would request that those witnesses be  
21 identified and 3500 be produced by the start of the  
22 government's case so that we have time to conduct our own  
23 investigation, if necessary.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Fasulo?

25 MR. FASULO: In the interest of moving the case

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1 forward, we obviously will cooperate with the government. I  
2 can't make a commitment like that, nor do I think the law  
3 requires me to make such a commitment, but I understand the  
4 government's concern, and I will work closely with the  
5 government to avoid any possible momentary delay or any delay  
6 in this case.

7 THE COURT: All right. I do think, Ms. Mortazavi, the  
8 defense has a right to hear your case as it comes in before it  
9 decides what its case is going to look like. It could well be  
10 they have no case.

11 MS. MORTAZAVI: Certainly, your Honor. And if it  
12 cannot come by the start of trial, it was merely a request from  
13 the government, but I do want to ensure that there isn't  
14 unnecessary delay with surprise witnesses that are only  
15 disclosed to the government the morning they testify.

16 THE COURT: Yes, I understand.

17 MR. FASULO: That won't happen.

18 THE COURT: In my experience, I don't think we have to  
19 worry about that with Mr. Fasulo. I'm going to take you at  
20 your word, Mr. Fasulo.

21 MR. FASULO: Judge, when I know, if I know, I will let  
22 the Court know, and it will not be the day of any testimony or  
23 once the defense case started. It will be before the defense  
24 case starts, for sure.

25 THE COURT: Yes, at a minimum, the evening before you

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1 put a witness on the stand.

2 MR. FASULO: Oh, before, sure, Judge. That's not even  
3 a question.

4 MS. MORTAZAVI: That's appreciated. Thank you.

5 MR. FASULO: Yes, that's not going to happen.

6 THE COURT: Anything else from either side?

7 MS. MORTAZAVI: Nothing from the government.

8 MR. FASULO: Nothing from the defense. I just want to  
9 give them stipulations we have worked on.

10 MS. MORTAZAVI: Thank you.

11 THE COURT: All right.

12 Then jury selection begins Wednesday morning as soon  
13 as jurors are available to us, so why don't we plan that we  
14 will meet here at about 9:45. I can't guarantee what time the  
15 jurors will be ready to be called up, but I expect it will be  
16 somewhere around 10:00, right?

17 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Yes.

18 THE COURT: I'm saying 9:45 in case you have -- why  
19 don't we say 10:00 o'clock, and if there's anything that you  
20 need to speak to me about earlier, you can submit or be in  
21 touch with Ms. Dempsey and let us know that.

22 MR. FASULO: Judge, are we working on the same  
23 schedule, like we were showing up a half hour before the jury?  
24 We will anyway. I just wanted to have the protocols of what  
25 the Court expects.

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1                   THE COURT: Yes, generally speaking, but, as I said,  
2 what I'd like to try to do is when we conclude for a day, I  
3 would say is there anything we need to talk about before we  
4 have the witness take the stand again tomorrow morning, and if  
5 the answer is yes, then we'll agree how long do we need, and if  
6 the answer is no, then we'll meet a few minutes before  
7 10:00 because I want to start at 10:00 o'clock each day.

8                   MR. FASULO: The only issue that came up in our  
9 conference today that I think I just wanted to address is  
10 the -- we are remaining in the building because we want to make  
11 sure that we move quickly. We don't want to be outside, we're  
12 going to have lunch in the cafeteria. Ms. Giannelli is here,  
13 her husband is here; they're going to remain with us. So, in  
14 fact, it gets awkward if the jurors are using the cafeteria as  
15 well. I don't know how that works, so I don't know --

16                  THE COURT: It used to work that they would have to go  
17 to the other courthouse, but I don't think that there's service  
18 at 40 Foley yet.

19                  MR. HUOT: Your Honor, as far as I know, there is. I  
20 had a trial there last month, and they had service there every  
21 day at 40.

22                  THE COURT: Okay. But that still requires all the  
23 jurors to go through security over there, get their food, come  
24 back here, and go through security again. So I hate to say it,  
25 but it's better if you go next-door.

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1                   MR. FASULO: That's a possibility. If the jurors are  
2 going to access the cafeteria, that's something we can look  
3 into, and just me and Ms. Giannelli getting into the  
4 courthouse, but we have no objection to going next-door.

5                   (Pause)

6                   THE COURT: Why don't we see when the jurors get here  
7 and --

8                   MR. FASULO: I just wanted to put that on the record.  
9 It's a concern. Obviously, we want to stay distanced from the  
10 jurors. I don't even want the appearance that we're in the  
11 same line or something, and -- we can kind of guide that  
12 after -- during the first day.

13                  THE COURT: I assume you have a secure pass,  
14 Mr. Fasulo?

15                  MR. FASULO: I do. They don't.

16                  MR. HUOT: None of us do, your Honor.

17                  THE COURT: I know Ms. Giannelli doesn't. You do, I  
18 assume?

19                  MS. MORTAZAVI: We use our government IDs.

20                  THE COURT: Yes. I wonder if it's a possibility if we  
21 can give you the card we give to the jurors, which lets you cut  
22 to the front of the line.

23                  MR. FASULO: It's actually easier for the jurors --

24                  THE COURT: That's why I'm saying, if we give you the  
25 card, but I'll have to explore whether that's something I'm

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1 allowed to do. I don't think I am.

2 MR. FASULO: I do understand limitations, but I do  
3 think it was important enough to bring up.

4 THE COURT: No, I appreciate that. We'll try to work  
5 through the logistics before we meet on Wednesday.

6 MR. FASULO: We'll do whatever --

7 THE COURT: Wednesday, unfortunately, I think because  
8 it will be the jurors' first day, and they won't know to have  
9 brought lunch and all that sort of thing, we might have to take  
10 a little bit of a longer break, but we'll see how things  
11 unfold. All right?

12 MR. FASULO: In terms of counsel table - this could  
13 help us as well - as long as I'm here, I'm the lead counsel,  
14 and -- as long as I'm here and Mr. Huot is here, if Mr. McCabe  
15 is in and out of the courtroom, is that okay?

16 THE COURT: That's fine with me.

17 MR. FASULO: We can also send him out to help us get  
18 food and find a place to eat.

19 THE COURT: That's fine with me.

20 MR. FASULO: So we can work out logistics as long as  
21 it's okay with the Court. I know sometimes it's disruptive,  
22 but he's capable of making it not disruptive.

23 THE COURT: That's fine with me. The only thing I  
24 would ask is while we have the venire in the back of the  
25 courtroom, obviously, don't be in and out.

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1 MR. FASULO: I'm talking for the lunchtime.

2 THE COURT: That's not a problem.

3 You're all comfortable with how and where you're  
4 seated?

5 MR. FASULO: Yes.

6 THE COURT: I'm talking about in terms of distancing  
7 and masking and that sort of thing.

8 Okay.

9 All right.

10 MR. FASULO: Let me -- let me speak.

11 (Counsel confer)

12 MR. FASULO: We are fine from the defense.

13 MS. MORTAZAVI: Fine from the government's  
14 perspective.

15 THE COURT: All right.

16 All right. Then I thank you all.

17 We have asked the court personnel to put the Plexiglas  
18 here, as I said. I'm not sure if they're going to put one - I  
19 think they are, but I'm not sure - at the front of the -- no?

20 MR. FASULO: Judge, there is a question, though. When  
21 we approach sidebar, because there will be sidebars, what is  
22 the Court's preference in terms of masking at sidebar?

23 THE COURT: You need to mask.

24 MR. FASULO: Okay. I just wanted to know.

25 THE COURT: Thank you. No, I appreciate you raising

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1 that. That's a good question. You do need to mask when you  
2 come up here.

3 MR. FASULO: Very well.

4 THE COURT: Anything else, then?

5 MS. MORTAZAVI: Nothing from the government.

6 MR. FASULO: Nothing from the defense.

7 THE DEPUTY CLERK: If you're going to send me a  
8 request to bring laptops or whatever into the courthouse --

9 MR. FASULO: It should be -- she's doing it right now.

10 THE DEPUTY CLERK: -- please get them to me by  
11 tomorrow. It's a different system now, it may take a little  
12 bit longer to get passwords and everything, so I want to make  
13 sure I have them ahead of time.

14 MR. FASULO: She'll have it.

15 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Thank you, everybody. I'll see you on  
17 Wednesday morning slightly before 10:00 o'clock.

18 MR. FASULO: Thank you, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Thank you. Have a good afternoon.

20 Thank you to our court reporter.

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